

## **Minutes**

### **Governor's Cabinet on Chronic and Long Term Care**

**Thursday, October 14, 2004**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Department of Labor and Training**

**1st Floor Conference Room**

**1511 Pontiac Avenue**

**John O. Pastore Center**

**Cranston, Rhode Island**

#### **Members in Attendance:**

**Corinne Calise Russo, Co-Chair, DEA; Jane A. Hayward, OHHS; Kathleen Spangler, MHRH; Ronald Lebel, DHS; Rollin Bartlett, DBR designee; Robert Langlais, DLT designee**

#### **Absent:**

**Beverly Najarian, DOA; Patricia A. Nolan, MD, DOH**

#### **Department Representatives:**

**Jorge Garcia, Governor's Office; John Young, DHS; Donna Cone, DEA; Frank Spinelli, DHS; Michelle Mickey, DHS; Dianne Kayala, DHS; Elaina Goldstein, URI; Kristen Pono, DEA, Michael Cronan, DEA**

#### **I. Opening Remarks**

**Corinne Calise Russo called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. The**

**September minutes were approved and seconded.**

## **II. Working Group Reports**

### **• Aging and Disability Resource Center – Dianne Kayala**

**Dianne Kayala reported the Department of Administration invited state officials, DEA constituents and staff for a tour of building #79 and a presentation of the proposed renovations of the future site of the ADRC. Please vote yes to bond issue #12.**

**Dianne informed the group that the ADRC marketing plan will be selected at the October 20, 2004 meeting of the Architectural / Engineering / Consultant Services Selection Committee. Joan D'Agostino is preparing the ADRC Grantee Semi-Annual Report. The brain injury resource directory will be added to the current ADRC website.**

**Art Schnure provided the group with a website demonstration. The website is [adrc.ohhs.ri.gov](http://adrc.ohhs.ri.gov). The virtual ADRC has a user friendly website listing hot topic issues in DHS and DEA and appropriate community links. Next year the website will feature a benefit catcher with a resource directory for each city and town.**

### **• Medicare Reform – Frank Spinelli**

**Frank Spinelli handed out a one page summary listing DHS comments on the Medicare Part D regulations. The state is requesting clarification on eligibility determinations for low-income subsidies; phased down state contribution; data and coordination which request**

state agencies become a Part D plan sponsor if they choose; and subpart S special rules for states undergoing changes to the state plan as a result of implementation of Part D.

### **III. New Directions**

- **Update on Waiver Program – John Young**

John Young distributed a spreadsheet outlining each element of the Long Term Care Strategic Plan. A recent court ruling restricts the choices and options for the 185 persons currently on the waiting list for the assisted living waiver. Waiver amendments such as adding personal care in assisted living to A & D and DEA waivers and consider different housing are options. Bob Caffrey questioned the timeline for change. He stated this being the third year without an increase in reimbursement rates makes it difficult for the home and community based services to attract health care workers. John Young stated there was not a lot of progress on rate reform. Kathy Kelly questioned the balance between nursing homes and assisted living facilities. John Young stated assisted living facilities are a necessary element of the system bridging the gap between independent living and nursing homes, however they are two different settings. Jane Hayward stated the assisted living facilities are based on the shelter model and are not licensed health care facilities. She believes this issue needed to be addressed due to the high need for services by the residents. Jane Hayward suggests that the assisted living facilities be allowed swing beds which would allow

residents requiring a higher level of services to stay instead of transferring to a nursing home. Jane Hayward stated the changes will be made through ongoing discussions and legislation.

- **New England Coalition for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Conference Update – Delia Rodriguez**

A report of this conference was given by Corinne Calise Russo.

- **POMP Grant – Donna Cone**

Donna Cone explained the POMP grant (performance outcome measurement project) and how each government agency at the federal level must arrive at measured outcomes for their programs. The idea is to justify the spending by showing real changes in peoples lives and / or their environment.

The POMP project focuses on the services administered at DEA that fall within the Older Americans Act. The data is collected from senior citizens responding to questions compiled by a research company to obtain specific information that target areas pertaining to customer satisfaction and the impact of services in meeting elder needs. The data collected was used to apply for the ADRC grant. The AoA decided to connect outcome measures with financing in the Advanced POMP (FY 2005); posing the question if x is spent in the community it will save y on the institutional side. These outcome measures are covered under the Advanced POMP grant DEA will be receiving for \$15,000 each year for three years. Donna announced

that she and Art Schnure will work together and focus on issues of caregivers, home and community care, and nutrition programs. Outcome measures have also been established for case management agencies and senior centers.

Donna also shared information from the Annual ADRC Grantee Conference she attended in Arlington, VA this month with Director Russo and Kathy McKeon. Grantees from every state participated and shared their unique ADRC site locations. The AoA and CMS are striving for an ADRC in every state. Kathy McKeon presented at the Annual Conference on how to prepare an RFP for marketing.

Donna updated the group on her collaboration with the DOH to keep state agencies and the public informed on the availability of the flu vaccine.

- **Medicare Part D Transitional Grant for SPAP – Michael Cronan**

Michael Cronan announced DEA received a \$1.9 million grant for FY 05 and 06 from CMS. The grant is focused on the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. Director Russo stated the strict guidelines are specific to educating the population on prescription benefits and Medicare Part D.

#### **IV. Other Business and Announcements**

- Jorge Garcia stated he will have a draft of the Nursing Home Safety Act available for the November meeting for review and comments.

**The Nursing Home Safety Act will be an ongoing agenda item.**

### **Public Comments**

**• Elaina Goldstein asked that the Long Term Care Strategic Plan include an infrastructure for disabled persons, a website for a Care Center and information and referral similar to the ADRC. She also asked which agencies would be specific to persons with disabilities. Director Russo suggested she attend an ADRC work group meeting which was a more suitable venue for her questions.**

**V. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2004. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.**

### **Others in Attendance:**

**Ann Gardella, Madeline Ernest, Bob Caffrey, Kelly Lee, Kathleen Kelly, Russell Gifford**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Donna M. Slemon**

**Assistant to the Director**

**Department of Elderly Affairs**